

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 AF-10 NIC-01 MC-02

RSR-01 /173 W

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TAGS: CI PFOR

SUBJ: LETELIER COMMENTS ON US/CHILE RELATIONS

1. GOVT INFORMATION OFFICE (OIR) DISTRIBUTED PRENSA LATINA
ITEM DATED JULY 30 REPORTING PRESS CONF. BY CHILEAN
FONMIN ORLANDO LETELIER, WHO HEADED CHILEAN DELEGATION TO
JULY 26 CELEBRATION. ON US/CHILE RELATIONS, AFTER FIRST RECIT-
ING USUAL CHILEAN LITANY ON "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE," ITT, AND
KENNECOTT, LETELIER SAID THAT IN SPITE OF "PROFOUND DIVER-
GENCIES" BETWEEN US AND CHILE RELATED TO CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY
OVER ITS BASIC NATURAL RESOURCES, GOC DESIRES TO MAINTAIN DIP-
LOMATIC CHANNELS OPEN. CONVERSATIONS MUST BE BASED ON
"ABSOLUTE RESPECT" FOR SOVEREIGN DECISIONS OF CHILE AND NON-
APPLICATION OF PRESSURES OF ANY TYPE. LETELIER NOTED HIGH-LEVEL
BILATERAL TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD, MOST RECENTLY IN LIMA.
REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE SALE OF US FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
TO CHILE, FONMIN SAID RECENT US PRESIDENTIAL DECISION OPENED
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WAY FOR SUCH PURCHASE BY CHILE AND OTHER LA NATIONS, BUT CHILE

HAD NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION ON QUESTION.

2. LETELIER ALSO COMMENTED ALONG EXPECTED LINES ON CHILE/CUBA RELATIONS, ASSASSINATION OF PRES. ALLENDE'S NAVAL AIDE, AND OAS RESTRUCTURING. REUTER-LATIN VERSION OF INTERVIEW GIVEN FRONTPAGE TREATMENT BY INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE EL MERCURIO JULY 31.

3. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW WITH PRENSA LATINA PRINTED IN COMMUNIST EL SIGLO JULY 28, LETELIER REPORTEDLY UNDERLINED THAT, AS SHOWN IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS OAS, US AND LATAM DO NOT HAVE IDENTICAL BUT RATHER OFTEN CONTRADICTORY INTERESTS. HE PURPORTEDLY STRESSED CHILE'S INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN TIES TO "THIRD WORLD," EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF APPROACHING ALGERIA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, ADVOCATED EVEN CLOSER CHILE/CUBA TIES; AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON FUTURE OF CHILE'S NATIONALIZED COPPER INDUSTRY.

4. COMMENT. CONSIDERING THE AUDIENCE AND THE LOCATION, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT LETELIER WAS RELATIVELY CIRCUMSPECT AND WAS CAREFUL TO SAY NOTHING WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE US/CHILE TALKS.
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